

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /114 W
-----014157 022110Z /66

P R 021551Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7450
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
UQMNS/AMEMBASSY SANA 96
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 1639

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, EAID, ET, SO, CU, XS, UR
SUBJECT: MOSCOW VISIT OF RAUL CASTRO AND PDRY PM
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SUMMARY: VISIT TO MOSCOW OF RAUL CASTRO AND PDRY PM
INDICATE GREAT SOVIET CONCERN OVER SITUATION IN HORN.
BREZHNEV AND MIN. DEF. USTINOV MEETING WITH CASTO
HIGHLIGHTS MILITARY ASPECT OF PROBLEM WHILE AIRPORT
WELCOMING LINE-UP FOR PDRY PM SUGGESTS STRONG FOCUS
ON SOVIET ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR PDRY, , I.E., A

SOVIET QUID FOR YEMENI QUO WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN GRANTED. END SUMMARY.

1. NEITHER VISIT OF CUBAN MIN. DEF. CASTRO NOR VISIT OF PDRY PM 'ALI NASIR MUHAMMED HASANI WAS ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE. PRESS TREATMENT OF VISITS IMPLIES HIGH LEVEL OF SOVIET CONCERN FOR DEVELOPING SITUATION IN HORN, BUT NO SUGGESTION IS MADE THAT CRISIS-LIKE SITUATION PREVAILS OR THAT ANY DRAMATIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ARE IN OFFING.

2. FEB. 2 CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES SOMBER PHOTO OF CASTRO FACING BREZHNEV AND BERIBBONED MIN. DEF. MARSHALL USTINOV ACROSS TABLE IN KREMLIN. ACCOMPANYING TEXT NOTES ATMOSPHERE OF "FRIENDSHIP, CORDIALITY, AND COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING". ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, THERE WAS "EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" ON BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHILE SOME QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE "IN PRESENT CONDITIONS" (I.E., THE PRESENT SITUATIONS IN THE HORN AND ANGOLA) WERE TOUCHED UPON. TV NEWS CLIPS SHOWED AN EFFUSIVE BREZHNEV WARMLY EMBRACING CASTRO BEFORE GOING TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

3. FEB. 1 CENTRAL PRESS PUFF PIECE ON PDRY PM PRAISED PDRY'S "CONSISTENT" POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION. WARM BUILD UP WAS CARRIED OVER IN FEB. 2 CENTRAL PRESS DESCRIPTION OF AIRPORT WELCOMING CEREMONY AND FIRST ROUND OF TALKS WITH KOSYGIN (IN ALL PROBABILITY THERE WILL BE A MEETING WITH BREZHNEV AS WELL). SOVIET LINE-UP AT AIRPORT STARTED WITH KOSYGIN AND WENT ON THROUGH LONG LIST OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY FIGURES. EMPHASIS SEEMED TO BE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS WITH INCLUSION OF MINISTER ALEKSEYEVSKIY (LAND RECLAMATION AND WATER RESOURCES), GUZHENKO (MARITIME FLEET), AND KOZLOVSKIY (GEOLOGY) AND SOVIET AID ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN SKACHKOV. FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE N.V. OGARKOV REPRESENTED SOVIET MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

4. PRESS DESCRIPTION OF FIRST ROUND OF TALKS NOTED "STEADFAST" DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COINCIDENCE OF POSITIONS OF TWO SIDES ON QUESTIONS OF PEACE AND SECURITY. ATMOSPHERE WAS DESCRIBED AS "WARM AND CORDIAL".

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 1639

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NOT SLIGHTEST DOUBT THAT
SITUATION IN HORN IS PRIMARY FOCUS FOR BOTH VISITORS,
VYING IN CASTRO'S CASE WITH ANGOLA. BILATERAL
ECONOMIC EMPHASIS EVIDENT IN PDRY PM'S
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VISIT MAY REPRESENT SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF PRICE

SOVIETS WILL PAY FOR INCREASED USE OF PDRY FACILITIES AFTER SOVIET EXPULSION FROM SOMALIS. THIS POSSIBILITY WAS SUPPORTED BY YAR EMBASSY DCM JAHAF TO WHOM EMBOFF SPOKE ON FEB. 2. JAHAF ALSO FELT THAT DISCUSSIONS MIGHT RESULT IN SIGNING OF SECRET AGREEMENT ON INCREASED SOVIET USE OF PORT FACILITIES AT ADEN ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS SPECULATION. BRITISH EMBASSY TOLD US THAT UK EMBASSY IN ADEN SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET-PDRY FRIENDSHIP TREATY RESULTING FROM MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS. BOTH THIS EMBASSY AND BRITISH EMBASSY HERE DISCOUNT THIS POSSIBILITY. WHILE IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY IS PRESENT BETWEEN MOSCOW AND ADEN, IT WOULD NOT APPEAR SEEMLY FOR THE SOVIETS PUBLICLY AND FORMALLY TO RUSH SO QUICKLY FROM THE ARMS OF SOMALIA TO THOSE OF PDRY. YAR DCM JAHAF ALSO POINTED OUT THAT PDRY LEADERS WOULD NOT LIKELY SEE SUCH A TREATY TO BE IN THEIR INTEREST SINCE THEY HAVE (A) ALWAYS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO FORECLOSE ALL THEIR OPTIONS WITH THE OTHER PARTIES IN THE REGION, (B) ARE NOT UNDER ANY PARTICULAR THREAT WHICH WOULD MAKE A FORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION DESIRABLE, AND (C) WILL PROBABLY GET ALL THEY WANT FROM THE SOVIETS IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE ABSENCE OF A TREATY.

6. JAHAF, WHO ATTENDED AIRPORT WELCOMING CEREMONIES FOR PDRY PM, SAID THAT LATTER WOULD STAY FOR THREE DAYS. THIS INDICATES A DEPARTURE ON FEB. 3 AND A PROBABLE COMMUNIQUE ON FEB. 4. THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN MFA RECEPTION FOR

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PDRY PM OR OF A MEETING BETWEEN NASIR MUHAMMED AND THE ARAB AMBASSADORS HERE, BUT THAT DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH EVENTS TAKING PLACE.
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Message Attributes

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